

HABS

MD.

2- ANNA

6-

Dr. Upton Scott House  
Shipwright Street  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWING

DR. UPTON SCOTT HOUSE  
(Also called "Carvel" and "Key" House)  
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Owner: Sisters of Notre Dame

Date of erection: 1765

Builder: Dr. Scott, physician to Governor Sharpe

Condition: Somewhat altered for convent uses

Description:

Has good example "ha-ha" ditch or wall.

Additional data:

Celebrated in Richard Carvel by Winston Churchill.

Dr. Upton Scott House  
4 Shipwright Street  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-246

HABS  
MD,  
2 - ANNA  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. UPTON SCOTT HOUSE  
(Carvel House)  
(Key House)

HABS  
MD,  
2-ANNA,  
6-  
HABS No. MD-246

Location: 4 Shipwright Street (on the northeast side, at the intersection with Revell Street), Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Present Owner: Redemptorist Fathers (1964).

Present Occupant: Convent of the Teaching Sisters of Notre Dame.

Present Use: Convent.

Significance: The Georgian house, built by an Irish physician, Dr. Upton Scott, for his bride, is noted for its rich interior work by William Buckland, a well known architect and master builder. Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner, resided in the house during his student years.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Construction of the house began in 1762 and was finished in 1764.
2. Architect: Attributed to William Buckland.
3. Original and subsequent owners: John Martin Hammon, writing in Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (pub. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1914) pages 68 to 70, states that:

"Dr. Scott built the house upon his marriage to Elizabeth Ross, daughter of John Ross. Dr. Scott died in 1814 and his wife in 1819.

After the death of Mrs. Scott the house was held by the Keys and Birneys, the nearest of kin and heirs of Dr. Scott; and shortly it passed into the hands of Mr. Dennis Claude. Around the middle of the 1800's the house was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy and later inhabited by the Sisters of Notre Dame."

Official records in the Anne Arundel County courthouse provide an account of the property during the late nineteenth century.

June 16, 1873 A. A. Co. Deeds, Leber SH7 folio 128 Elizabeth G. Claude, widow, conveys her life estate to Phoebe Claude Kilbourne of Chicago, wife of Willis Kilbourne. Excepting the small brick dwelling in NE corner reserved to her own lifetime use.

1858 A. A. Co. Equity case, dated April 1858, wherein Dennis Claude Jr., et al, vs. Hammond Claude, et al, contest the deed to Elizabeth Claude. Reference is made to this Equity Case in A. A. Co. Deeds, Liber SH7, folio 496.

1873 Phoebe Claude Kilbourne conveys her interest November 9, 1873, to Sisters of Mercy, still subject to Elizabeth Claude's life estate, for \$2,500. Plus \$3,000 mortgage from Henry W. Rogers, said mortgage later assigned Mrs. Emily Hawthorne.

The house was later occupied by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

5. Original plans and construction: No records were found.
6. Alterations and additions: There have been few alterations. The Sisters of Notre Dame have altered an upper room for use as a chapel, the southeast dependency was rebuilt as a dwelling, and the rear garden wall was destroyed when the elementary school was constructed.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Dr. Upton Scott, the original owner of the house, was a prominent citizen and the personal physician to Maryland Governor Horatio Sharpe. William Buckland is thought to have been the architect of the building and is known to have done the interior woodwork. Among the famous visitors to the house were Sir Robert Eden, the last loyalist Governor of Maryland, and Francis Scott Key, the great nephew of Mrs. Scott and author of the Star Spangled Banner, who lived in the house while attending St. John's College. Sir Robert Eden returned from exile in England in 1784 in order to recover his confiscated property; he died in the Upton Scott House shortly after his return.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views:

- a. Forbes Collection of Annapolis Photographs, photographs 40, 41, 42, 43, 106, 110, 200, 425, 428, 505, 842 and 843 (Hall of Records, Annapolis).
- b. Sashe Print of Annapolis 1858

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Anne Arundel County Deeds.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Beine and Scarff. William Buckland. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1958.

Hammond, John Martin. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1914.

Hostess' Handbook. Historic Annapolis, Inc. 1960.

D. Supplemental Material: The following is an excerpt taken from Beine and Scarff's book William Buckland, pages 71-73:

"Around the year 1765 seven great Maryland houses were being built, all of which show the Buckland influence. These are Dr. Upton Scott's and John Ridout's Annapolis residences; Richard Sprigg's Strawberry Hill and Horatio Sharpe's Whitehall, both on the outskirts of Annapolis; Galloway's Tulip Hill farther out in Anne Arundel County; the Snowden's Montpelier in Prince George's County, and the Ringgold house in Chestertown. All but Strawberry Hill were of brick, and all but that mansion are still standing. All were adorned with the elaborate woodwork which was Buckland's forte.

Dr. Scott, John Ridout and Governor Sharpe would have employed the same man to do the designs for their houses, if it were possible, for they were intimate friends with similar tastes. Sharpe and Scott had fought together in the British forces where the Governor was a career colonel and Upton Scott an army surgeon. When William Sharpe, one of young Lord Baltimore's guardians, had procured the governorship for his brother, Upton Scott had come along to Maryland as his personal physician. Dr. Scott further intrenched his own interests by marrying Elizabeth Ross, a daughter of Lord Baltimore's Secretary of the Council, Collector of his Lordship's quit-rents and Register of the Land Office. As time went on Scott inherited these same sinecures from John Ross, his father-in-law, so that with his large medical practice the poor Belfast doctor was able to plan for himself the finest of town houses. Daniel Dulany writing to Councilor Robert Carter (October 22, 1764), Carter Papers, Folder 18, William and Mary College.) so esteemed it: 'Dr. Scott has built the best Town House in America.' A year later a mob of country people came to town to intimidate the

Council and took it out in 'menaces against the best building viz Dr. Scott's house.' In a letter (to his father Francis Scott of Temple Patrick, Co. Antrim, Ireland. Letter owned by the Misses Annan, Taneytown, Maryland.) written December 30, 1765, a few days after this affair, Scott goes into more detail:

'The whole continent of America is at present in the utmost confusion on account of an act of parliament made last year imposing a Stamp Duty upon them. God knows what the events will be if the Government should insist on its being carried into execution. I shall be involved in the commotion which most probably will attend this Country in the struggle.

I am at present exceedingly hampered on account of the expense of building a house which is not yet finished, my workmen having persued measures that have run away with more cash than I proposed. Some political storms, which I have not yet entirely weathered, had lately, very nearly swallowed me up.'

These letters with a 1762 advertisement by the good doctor for a brickmaker 'who understands his business,' definitely date the building. Once set in extensive gardens with a colonial rarity, a greenhouse, and enclosed with a high brick wall, the house still looks down towards nearby Spa Creek.

Dr. Scott returned from a self-inflicted exile in Ireland during the Revolution to find that his popularity was in no way impaired, so beloved was he by the citizenry of Annapolis. Here and at his wife's plantation, Belvoir, he continued to a ripe old age to grow rare plants and enjoy his garden."

Prepared by: Research Staff  
Historic Annapolis, Inc.  
August 1964

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This unusually fine Georgian house is important for its exceptional exterior and interior features, particularly the brick work and interior carvings.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in very good condition and is well maintained. However, many coats of paint have diminished the sharpness of the smaller ornamental parts. The basic structure appears sound.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house, rectangular in plan, measures 54'-2" (five bays) by 44'-10" (two bays). It is two-and-a-half stories with a partially elevated basement. The central three bays of the southwest facade project 9' to form a pedimented pavilion.
2. Foundations: The foundation is of stone with six to nine courses of brick. There is a molded brick water table located at the top. The stones are irregular in shape and differ in size. They are laid in lime and sand mortar, which has been patched with modern cement mortar in a number of places. There are different kinds of stones used, but granite is more prominent. Galleting is found in the joints between the large stones. Due to the sloping site, the foundation is highest along the northeast side.
3. Wall construction: The walls are of brick, 20" thick at the first story. The bricks are large (2-1/2" by 4" by 8-5/8"), of an English standard size, and laid in all header bond on the two long sides and Flemish bond on the ends. Stretchers are orange-red and headers vary from orange-red through brown to a dark neutral purple and blue-black. A string course (4 courses high) separates the first and second stories. Flat arches over window openings are rubbed brick. Mortar is of lime and sand, light in color, and it has been repointed in places. All brick and stone work is in excellent condition.
4. Structural system, framing: A few hewn principal members of the roof frame are now visible. The sizes of the rafters are as follows: Principal rafters, 5-1/2" wide, 3-1/4" depth below interior surface; purlin, 6-1/2" wide, 5-1/4" below interior surface, and valley rafter (of pediment), 4-1/2" x 10-1/2".
5. Porches and stoops: At the center of the east facade is a one-story pedimented porch sheltering the entrance. The east elevation was originally the main facade. The porches have two columns and corresponding wall pilasters. The order is Mutular Roman Doric, generally "correct" with the following exceptions: (a) the columns and pilasters, which are fluted, are somewhat slender, (b) the pilasters are tapered, and (c) the metopes--six at the sides and five at the front--are paneled. A ceiling of matched and beaded boards (probably a replacement) is only slightly above the soffit of the architraves. Modern benches flank the doorway. The work described above is of wood, painted. It is in good condition and may have been repaired at times. The column bases have apparently been replaced with simple plinth blocks which do not match the original pilaster



bases. The floor of this porch is sandstone, with three slabs in the middle and one piece at each of the three outer sides. There are thirteen sandstone steps, with molded nosing, leading to ground level. They flare out to widen at the lower end. The nosing is cracked in several places. There is a modern pipe railing at each side, but no definite evidence of an original rail. The stair is supported on brick walls, stuccoed on one side, and the porch floor is supported on a brick barrel vault, 4'-8" in diameter.

At the center of the west facade is a smaller stone stoop with five steps, supported on brick walls and arches, leading to an entrance. On each end elevation, centered on the easternmost bay of windows, is an enclosed basement entrance. The enclosures are brick with gable roofs and wooden pediments. Each has a modern screen door set in a wide architrave trim (which appears original with the vestibule). These vestibules are additions, but appear quite old, and are in harmony with the building. Alongside each is a small wooden storage shed of uncertain date.

6. Chimneys: There are two large chimneys located symmetrically between the front and rear rooms, they extend high above the roof. They are laid with all-header bond, the top four courses corbeling out successively to form a cap. Each is encircled by a heavy metal strap slightly above its mid-height. These straps are thought to be original.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doors: The entrance to the west facade is a pedimented frontispiece with pilasters, corresponding closely in detail to its porch counterpart on the east facade. Within this frame is an opening with architrave moldings (over a plinth). At the head is a triple key-block, the central one projecting beyond the others. The doors of the two entrances are alike. Each is a large single door, 3'-10" x 8'-6" x 1-5/8", with ten raised and fielded panels. At the bottom is a wide rail, then a pair of square panels, a pair of low horizontal panels, a pair of panels somewhat higher than a square, a pair of low horizontal panels, and at the top a pair of square panels. The doors, which appear original, are in excellent condition. They are painted but the grain resembles that of yellow pine. Pegs can be seen at the joint of rails and stiles. There is a large brass knocker on the southwest door--probably not original, but old and harmonious in design. A small brass handle on the outside works the lock.

- b. Windows: All windows of the main floors are similar, with a wooden architrave 5-1/2" wide projecting 1" beyond the face of the wall (with a plinth block). Sills are wood, 4" high, flush with the wall, crowned by a small molding which joins the plinths of the trim. A small modern molding (and caulking) extends outside the architrave trim.

Sash are all replacements (double hung, 4/4). Some windows have been furnished with colored glass of a simple Tiffany type. There is no evidence of exterior shutters.

Basement windows appear to have modern sash, some having been widened at an unknown date. One on the southeast wall appears largely original, with heavy wood casing and sill. The head of this window is a segmental arch of rubbed brick, which is flat on top. All basement windows have rubbed brick arches, some completely flat, others as described in the preceding sentence.

In the pediment of the southwest facade is a small semicircular one. Its trim consists of wood blocks imitating rustication.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is hipped and covered with slate. A small area at the center is decked with sheet metal covering, in which is a small modern skylight. It is not visible from most viewing positions.
- b. Cornice: A full wooden entablature forms the house cornice. The architrave has two fascias and is crowned by a cyma reversa. The frieze contains enriched consoles (thirty-eight across the ends and forty-six across the long sides), between which are paneled metopes. Bed moldings (cavetto, fillet and ovolo) break around each console, projecting about half-way across the soffit at the consoles. At the top is a corona, cyma reversa, fillet, and cyma recta.
- c. Dormers: There are two rather crude dormers on the northeast side of the roof, obviously fairly modern additions.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Much of the basement has been given modern finish but the basic layout is the original central hall plan with a room on either side. Rubble and brick partitions underlie those of the superstructure.

At the west corner is a brick-barrel-vaulted room (presumably a wine cellar) about 12' x 18' by 9' high at the crown. The vaulting, which is in English bond, springs from a rubble foundation. This room is paved with flagstones 1'-7" square, many of which have been broken; the broken edges are so smooth as to suggest long usage. Below this room is a tunnel or passage, now filled with earth, but accessible through one flagstone which can be lifted.

In the area at the south corner, which is paved with brick, one can see the chimney substructure, which has an arched void in the central portion.

In the area under the stair hall is some stone and brick paving; this area has been subdivided by a modern 8" brick wall.

The basement stair is enclosed with wood paneling, except for the lower 6 risers. There are 19 risers in all, including some winders; treads and risers have been covered with modern composition. The lower end of the stair has a rail and posts similar to that in the attic, but without balusters; it may be original.

In the first floor, there is a central entrance hall plan, which was the original main entrance from the northeast side of the house. There are two parlors on each side of hall. The second floor is similar to that of first floor, except that the entrance hall is divided into a hall and a small hall chamber.

The attic appears to have been open and unfinished, originally. In modern times, the northeastern side has been finished with plastered walls and ceiling, and composition floor covering. The attic probably was floored (originally, or at an early date); in the unfinished portion are yellow pine boards, 9" to 14" wide.

Sheet rock has been placed over the rafters, but the larger timbers of the roof project below this surface.

2. Stairways: The first floor stair hall is centrally located on the southwest side. It is wider than the entrance hall, from which it is separated by an arched opening. The stair is L-shaped in plan, fifteen risers to a landing, seven risers from the landing to the second floor. It has an open string, brackets ornamented with low-relief carving, in the form of a console with an acanthus leaf diagonally below the smaller scroll. Balusters are 1" square, spaced three to each tread. The handrail is 3" high by 2-1/2", molded with a deep undercut for the fingers along the outer side. It terminates at the

lower end in a spiral supported on balusters from the first tread, which is curved and projects. There is no wall rail. The room base extends upward along the slope of the stair. Below the brackets is a wooden fret band, which bends and extends horizontally at the soffit of the landing; the fret itself is built up. A similar fret band extends below the brackets of the upper flight, between the landing and second floor, then turns to extend around the stair well at the second floor level. At the landing corner and the corners of the stair well, the railing post consists of four slender turned colonettes on a common square plinth and abacus block. The colonettes are grouped in a square so that each elevation shows a coupled pair. The railing around the stair well is similar to that of the stair itself.

Below the lower flight of the stair is wooden paneling--with four raised field panels that enclose the stair to the basement. The landing soffit is of wood, with a single panel. The soffit of the upper flight is treated similarly.

Stair treads and risers are of yellow pine. The rail is mahogany. They are in good condition.

An enclosed stair in the second floor, with twenty risers in a straight flight, ascends to the attic along the northwest side of the upper stair hall, entered by a six-panel door. Treads and risers are of yellow pine. On the right side (in ascending) is a wooden rail supported on mall cast-iron brackets which are an addition, possibly of the late 19th century. At the top of the stair is a wooden railing on three sides. It has a 3" x 3-1/2" rail and 3" x 3" chamfered posts. Balusters 1" thick (simulating a turned baluster profile) are spaced 5-1/4" on centers. Posts and rail are joined and pegged and balusters are housed in a slot at the top and nailed at the bottom. This railing gives every indication of being original.

3. Flooring: The original first floor flooring was of yellow pine, boards varying between 4" and 5" in width. It is still visible in one room (west corner) in fairly good condition. Other rooms on the first floor have modern composition tile covering over the original boards.

All second-floor rooms have been covered either with linoleum or composition tile, but a worn area in the closet under the attic stair reveals original yellow pine boards 4-1/2" to 5" in width.

4. Wall and ceiling finish:

- a. First floor: Walls and ceilings are of plaster, the walls being treated with paneling. Three rooms (north, east, and west corners) have had sheetmetal ceilings inserted below the original plaster ceilings. Plaster cornices are typical, as are molded wooden chair rails and bases. Wainscots are plaster-paneled. All visible plaster work is in good condition and is painted.

Entrance hall: A plaster cornice 8-1/2" high extends around this room. Moldings (beginning at the bottom) are: cavetto, dentil course, fillet, ovolo enriched with egg and dart (the units being rather wide), corona, small cyma reversa, fillet, cyma recta, and fillet. Walls have large plaster panels above a paneled wainscot. The ceiling is plain.

Stair hall: A plaster cornice 10-1/2" high extends around this room, except along part of two walls at the upper half of the stair, where the well opening occurs. The cornice also extends under the topmost stair tread, returning against a flat board (which is the reverse face of the fret band). It is interrupted over the archway (which leads to the entrance hall) by a similar wooden cornice. Moldings (beginning at the bottom) are: cavetto, fillet, ovolo, modillion course, corona, small cyma reversa, fillet, cyma recta, and fillet. Each modillion is curved like a console on the bottom but is otherwise plain with a cyma reversa molding on top of it. Between each modillion is a fleurette in the soffit, which are not used in the wooden cornice over the archway.

Walls are treated typically with large panels above the paneled wainscot. Alongside the stair are four panels at the lower end, and four panels at the stair well which extend up to the level of the second floor chair rail. The lower ends of these panels approach the raking base molding, with no wainscot division on this side. The ceiling is plain.

North room: This room has a sheet-metal ceiling, with a cove which covers the original cornice except the portion at the chimney breast, which is crowned by a full entablature. This consists of an architrave of two fascias separated by a small ovolo, with a cyma reversa enriched by a low-relief acanthus scross and. The frieze is pulvinated, and enriched with laurel leaves. The central portion of the frieze is covered by a smooth cartouche

bearing an inverted plant with flowers in low relief. The cornice consists of a cavetto, dentil course, fillet, ovolo enriched with eggs and darts, corona, small cyma reversa, and cyma recta (the top of which is covered). Walls are plaster-paneled above a paneled wainscot.

East room: This room has a sheet-metal ceiling and cove, similar to the north room. Walls are paneled similarly. Over the mantel is a single panel with a narrow enriched architrave, having shoulders at the upper corners from which hang strings of wheat husks. The chimney breast is crowned by a plaster entablature, whose architrave consists of three fascias separated by narrow moldings (the lower, an ovolo, the upper a cyma reversa).

In the frieze is a low-relief floral spray on each side, springing from a central stalk which is nearly covered by leaves. The bed moldings of the cornice consist of a cyma reversa, dentil course, fillet, and ovolo enriched by a series of leaf-bundles, each bound at the center by the letter M. Above the bed moldings is a modillion course with small rosettes in the soffit and the modillions are in the form of enriched consoles. Above the modillion course is a corona, small enriched cyma reversa, and cyma recta (the upper part of which is covered).

South room: The ceiling is plain, of plaster, with a large-scale plaster cornice consisting of a cavetto, fillet, cyma recta, corona, cyma recta and fillet. Three walls are plain plaster, with plaster wainscot (wooden chair rail and base). A small wooden molding defines a frieze below the room cornice. This molding is interrupted at the windows.

The fourth wall, containing a fireplace, is paneled in wood.

West room: This is similar to the south room, but the cornice is considerably smaller, consisting of a slightly projecting corona crowned by a cyma recta.

- b. Second floor: Ceilings of the stair hall and the two northwest rooms have been covered with sheetmetal and the other rooms reveal plain plaster ceilings, which painted. Plaster cornices are typical. Walls are plaster, either plain or paneled.

Stair hall: This hall has a plaster cornice identical with that of the stair hall on the first floor. Walls are paneled in plaster, similar to paneling of the first floor, except for wood paneling enclosing the attic stair.

Front hall: This has a large-scale plaster cornice generally similar to that of the south room of the first floor (described above). Walls are plaster-paneled, except for the partition of the hall chamber, which is wood-paneled.

Hall chamber: This room, now used as a bathroom, has plain plaster walls and a plaster cornice identical with that of the front hall. One wall has been wainscoted with modern composition board.

North room: This room has plain plaster walls on three sides (wood paneling on the fourth). In the east corner a bathroom has been built, with painted composition board, which was cut to fit around the plaster room cornice without damage to it. This plaster cornice has a large cavetto and bead serving as bed moldings.

East room: This room has plain plaster walls, and a cornice similar to that of the front and hall chamber. There is a bathroom built into the north corner, similar to that in the north room (described above).

South room: This room, now used as a chapel, has plain plaster walls and ceilings. The cornice has an ovolo molding (with typical fascia and cyma recta above).

West room: This is similar to the north room.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Door openings in the first floor are typically framed with a wooden architrave, generally six inches wide, with a plinth block. The original front entrance, on the northeast side, has its architrave recessed, with a smaller one framing the opening at the inside wall line. The entrance on the southwest side is similarly recessed, but the whole opening is framed by a wide wooden band carrying a fret; the inner molding is a bead enriched with small rosettes, and the outer molding enriched with eggs and darts. Window openings carry architrave trim.

Some doors are six-panel, others have eight. The panels have raised fields. Most seem to be original.

Typical second floor doorways have wooden architraves, on a plinth, and doors with six raised and fielded panels. The chapel is entered through a double door in an arched opening, apparently dating from the end of the 19th century.

- b. Windows: The first floor rooms (stair hall, north, east and south rooms) all have similar window treatment. The openings are splayed, the splay extending below the window stool to a window seat. There are paneled shutters which fold into pockets in the jambs. Each soffit has two panels, as does the area between the stool and seat. Below the seat is a two-paneled pedestal. Nearly all windows contain the original interior shutters, which are equipped with wrought iron hinges and locking bar. These panels have raised fields.

The second floor window treatment is very similar to that on the first floor.

6. Decorative features and trim:

a. First floor:

Entrance hall: There is a chair rail 6-1/2" wide with moldings at top and bottom and a plain frieze between. The arched opening opposite the entrance door is semicircular, with a molding wooden key block, archivolt, and impost formed by the capital of a Roman Doric paneled pilaster on each jamb. The room base consists of a molding above a plinth.

Stair hall: On this side of the arched opening is a Roman Ionic frontispiece, consisting of a fluted tapered pilaster, on a pedestal, on each side, carrying a wooden entablature with a plain pulvinated frieze. The whole motif is set onto a slight projection of the wall and the cornice breaks twice at each side. Pilaster capitals are of the angle-volute type, and are enriched. The pilaster bases are of a modified attic type.

The chair rail and base are similar to those in the entrance hall.

North room: On the southwest wall of this room is a fireplace (on a projecting chimney breast). The opening is covered up. Around it is a wooden fret band, inside of which is an enriched rope molding, and outside of which is an egg and dart band. Above a plain frieze (in the plane of the chimney breast) is a cornice which forms a mantel shelf. It consists of (beginning at the bottom) a reeded ovolo, dentil course, fillet, ovolo enriched with eggs and darts, corona, small enriched cyma reversa, fillet, and cyma recta enriched with upright acanthus leaves, between each of which is a small flower on a stalk.



At the right side of the chimney is an Ionic frontispiece framing a door. It is similar to the frontispiece in the stair hall, but it is smaller, has a broken pediment, a denticulated order, and capitals with normal volutes, which appear to be the modified versions of the Erechtheion type of Greek Ionic capitals. The door has six panels. The lunette above it is treated with two panels.

This room has the typical wooden chair rail and base.

East room: On the southwest wall is a fireplace, whose opening is closed with a sheet of metal. Surrounding the opening is a narrow white marble facing, then a wooden architrave, consisting of an enriched torus, plain band, and ovolo enriched with eggs and darts. On either side of this architrave is a slightly-projecting upright console on a plinth; above its larger scroll a stalk emerges from acanthus leaves and carries a series of eight diminishing upright husks.

The frieze and cornice of this chimney piece appear to be a diminished and enriched version of the exterior house cornice. In the frieze are ten brackets of console form, with one returned against the wall at each end. Each bears an enriched cavetto and enriched ovolo, to support the soffit of the cornice. Each space between, in the frieze, is paneled. The cornice has a cyma recta enriched with acanthus leaves; between it and the corona is a small enriched cyma reversa. The cornice constitutes a mantel shelf.

The doorway to the entrance hall is framed with an architrave molding on a plinth. At the door head an inverted cavetto forms a transition to a frieze (which is slightly narrower than the door frame). Above the frieze is a wooden cornice, with bed moldings consisting of cyma reversa, fillet, plain fascia (instead of a dentil course) and ovolo. Above this is the corona, small cyma reversa, fillet and cyma recta.

This room has a wooden chair rail and molded base. The doorway connecting with the stair hall appears old, but is probably not original, since it interrupts the plaster paneling on both faces of the wall. Windows are treated similarly to those of the stair hall.

South room: The northeast wall, which contains a fireplace, is paneled in wood. The chimney does not project. The fireplace is slightly left of center and the opening is closed with a metal sheet. Surrounding the opening is a stone facing, now painted. Between the facing is a wooden architrave, set on a plinth, at the top of which is a thin, narrow mantel shelf. Above the mantel is a long horizontal panel. Above that are three panels extending to the room cornice, the central one wide and the side panels narrow. On either side of the chimney is a closet. The one at the left is shallow which is entered through a door that is 3'-2" wide, 7'-10-1/2" high and 1" thick with three nearly square panels having moldings and a raised field. Above this door is a single panel. The closet at the right is large, and has markings on the northwest wall showing that it once contained a stair. It is entered by two doors, 2'-2-1/2" wide and 1'-10-1/2" wide, respectively, 5" apart. Above each door is a panel.

This room has a wooden chair rail and base on three walls and none on the wooden paneled wall.

West room: The wood work of this room is similar to that of the south room, described above.

General: The exact detail of chair rails and bases vary somewhat from room to room, but panel moldings retain their similarity.

- b. Second floor: The archway between the stair hall and front hall, on both sides, resembles the treatment on the entrance hall side of the first floor, with paneled pilasters, archivolt and key block.

The partition enclosing the attic stair is of wood, 1" thick, with ten vertical panels above ten panels which simulate a wainscot. A six-panel closet door is integrated into the design of this wall surface.

North room: The southwest wall is paneled in wood, and contains a fireplace in the center. The chimney does not project. The fireplace opening, of brick, has stone facing around the edges (now painted) and a wooden architrave, on a plinth. Above this is a wooden frieze and cornice, having a bead and cavetto bed molding, corona and cyma recta. Above the mantelpiece is a single panel. Flanking the panel is a narrow panel on each side (with a low panel below it simulating a wainscot). On either side is a

double door, each leaf of which is two-paneled, leading to a closet. Above each opening are two panels. On three walls is a plain chair rail and a molded base. A molding at the top of the window trim defines a frieze on the three plaster walls.

East room: On the southwest wall is a projecting chimney breast, slightly to the right of center. The fireplace opening is closed with wooden boarding. The treatment of the chimneypiece is similar in scheme to that of the north room, but simpler in detail. There is a molded wooden room base.

South room (chapel): This has a molded wood base and a small molding at the top of the window trim. This room is furnished with an altar on a low platform, a paneled rail and six benches, all apparently dating from relatively recent times.

West room: On the northeast wall is a fireplace, whose opening is now closed by boarding. It has a painted stone surround and wooden architrave on a plinth. At the left of the fireplace is a double door, and narrow panels on each side of the opening. Each leaf of the door has two panels. There are two panels above the opening. There is a molded wood room base, and a small molding at the top of the window trim (except where the wood paneling occurs).

7. Hardware: Door hinges throughout appear original. Doors are typically hung on two H or H-L wrought-iron hinges which, although painted over, show wrought-iron nail heads and leather washers.

The two first-story entrance doors are hung on three large hinges--H-L at top and bottom, H at the middle, fastened with wrought nails.

Interior door locks are typically small cast-iron box locks, perhaps 19th century, with porcelain knobs. The first-story entrance doors have their original box locks (7" x 12" x 1-3/8"; 7" x 12" x 1-5/8") of wrought iron. Each is further secured on the inside by wrought-iron bolts. The northeast door has one, 7/8" in diameter and 13-3/4" long and the southwest door has two.

Closet doors in wood-paneled partitions have small box locks and turn-latches. Window shutters are hung on two wrought-iron H-hinges. (Sash and sash hardware are modern).

- a. Lighting: There is no trace of original lighting fixtures.
- b. Heating: Originally, heating was by means of fireplaces--one in each major room.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: At the time of construction the house was placed on a large site, facing Duke of Gloucester Street on the northeast, and extending to Spa Creek on the southwest; it occupied the highest part of the grounds. Later the area was reduced by the opening of Shipwright Street about 30 ft. from the southwest side of the house, ; this is now the normal entrance. Much of the land fronting on Duke of Gloucester Street has been occupied in recent times by parochial school buildings, in which the Sisters who occupy the house teach classes. The frontage along Shipwright Street is about 235 ft.
2. Landscape features: The area around the house is enclosed now by hedges along Shipwright Street and brick garden walls along the side lot lines; brick garden walls of uncertain age also extend the line of the northeast facade. On the grounds are several trees of great size, and other smaller ones. There is no indication of formal garden areas now. There are some brick paths, and a modern concrete sidewalk which leads to the newest school building.
3. Outbuildings: Flanking the southwest side are two brick building, located symmetrically with respect to the main axis of the house. One of these, a former stable, is described separately (see Dr. Upton Scott Stable, MD-246-A). The other, at the south corner of the site, is now owned as a separate property. It appears to have been the same size as the stable, but it has been enlarged, altered, and made into a private residence to such an extent that it is useless to conjecture about its original function. It appears probable that these two brick outbuildings are contemporary with the house. Northwest of the house is a small two-story frame building, now used as a laundry, which appears to date from the end of the 19th century. East of the house, near the side lot line, is a small garden pavilion or trellis of uncertain date.

Edited by: Eleni Silverman  
Historian, HABS  
April 30, 1984

From reports  
Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service

July 29, 1964